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Photo by John Brownlee

U.S. Congresswoman Heather Wilson, 'co-pilots' as a student 'flies' aircraft through classroom cyberspace during opening day festivities at the Air Force Research Laboratory's STARBASE La Luz Acad-

emy. The academy's extracurricular study of math and science is designed to attract elementary and secondary school students to future careers as scientists and engineers.

## STARBASE: We have lift-off!

BY JOHN BROWNLEE

Space Vehicles Directorate Public Affairs

If math and science are about as interesting to your kids as a federal budget hearing, have hope. The Air Force Research Laboratory has some good news for you—and for your children's future.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Air Force STARBASE La Luz Academy!

Launched March 15 by Congresswoman Heather Wilson in a ribbon-cut-

ting ceremony at the Kirtland Technology Park, a novel education program took wing. Its goal: Line-up elementary and secondary students for what AFRL hopes will be future careers as scientists and engineers.

The unveiling coincides with the national, "Excellence in Science, Technology and Mathematics Education Week," March 15-20.

"Our purpose at the STARBASE

Academy is straightforward," said Academy deputy director and lead teacher Ronda Cole.

"Working with local schools, we have developed extracurricular coursework in a classroom and hands-on research setting to present science and math in a practical, palatable way to students who

**STARBASE**

Continued on Page 6

## Air Force announces E-8 promotions

The Air Force selected 17 TEAM KIRTLAND master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant through the 04E8 central evaluation. Worldwide it picked 1,566.

Those from Kirtland AFB:

Air Force Pararescue School  
**Scott A. Valenti**

Air Force Inspection Agency  
**Carrie L. Farrin**

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center  
**Douglas A. Locke**  
**David W. McLain**

Air Force Research Laboratory  
**Roberta K. Wagner**

Air Force Safety Center  
**Charles R. Davis**

377th Air Base Wing  
**David A. Halvorson**

377th Security Forces Squadron  
**Timothy G. Uding**

377th Dental Squadron  
**Carolyn A. Regan**

377th Aerospace Medicine Squadron  
**Maria L. Aresbanez** (inbound)

58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
**Steven L. Clem**

58th Special Operations Wing, Detachment 1  
**Eugene R. Trosterud**

58th Operations Support Squadron  
**Torrence D. Johnson**

58th Maintenance Squadron  
**Michael W. Smith**

550th Special Operations Squadron  
**Wilbert Murphy**  
**Ian S. Wightman**

551st Special Operations Squadron  
**Mark T. Pryor**

The complete list of selectees will be posted to the Air Force Personnel Center's Web page, [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/), March 20.

The board, which convened at Randolph AFB, Texas, Jan. 26 to Feb. 12, consid

**PROMOTION**

Continued Page 6

## INSIDE

### PAGE 2

Donating life; New medals

### PAGE 3

Click-It; Entry rules change

### PAGE 4

Command Chief's Choice; Career Focus

### PAGE 5

Forum

### PAGE 6

Framing continues

### PAGE 7

Women's History Month; Love locks

### PAGES 8-9

Of Note

### PAGE 10

Target ID; AFAF

### PAGE 11

Training

### PAGES 12-13

Award winners

### PAGE 14

Movies; Command TV

### PAGES 15-16

Services

### PAGES 17-19, 21

Sports

**107 TEAM KIRTLAND members are deployed in 15 locations**

**29 days until 377th Air Base Wing Nuclear Surety Inspection**

**Force Protection Condition ALPHA**

**Straight Talk 853-4636**

**NUCLEUS Supplement**  
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